

Fremont Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Attendance: Janice O'Brien, Jack Karcz, Bill Johnson, Kenn Jones, Matthew Thomas, Jean Ragonese, Tina Sturdivant.

Meeting began at 7:04 PM

Glen Oaks

Mr. Karcz performed a Glen Oaks monitoring session on October 21, 2007. He reported that all signs were intact and he did not find anything out of the ordinary.

Mr. Johnson (accompanied by Mrs. Sturdivant) performed a Glen Oaks monitoring session on November 18, 2007. They reported that:

- The wooded Glen Oaks Conservation Area sign is peeling.
- Track vehicle tire tracks on were observed on part of the loop trail and onto a trail that lead into Brentwood.
- Spoke with two hunters during the monitoring session
 - One hunter reported seeing the track vehicle on the previous day. He commented that the vehicle looked like a "tank without a gun".
 - The second hunter reported seeing a snowshoe hare (that morning), three cow moose, in the swamp (on a previous hunting trip) and no deer. This hunter (from Massachusetts) also expressed his gratitude that the Glen Oaks Conservation Area was available for him to hunt in.
- There is a possibility that one ordinance sign is missing on the trail with the large tree down. This was the first time Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Sturdivant had been in the Conservation Area after installation of the ordinance signs and they were not certain of the precise location until after speaking with other members of the committee.

Mrs. Sturdivant is scheduled to do the monitoring session for the month of December. She will verify if the sign in question is missing.

Mrs. O'Brien informed the committee that Charlie Moreno met with the Conservation Commission on Monday evening to go over the status of the Management Plan he is creating for the Glen Oaks Conservation Area. Mr. Moreno provided the Conservation Commission with an outline of all components of the plan and timeline for each phase of the project. Mr. Moreno will be conducting a forest inventory, interpreting and creating maps, writing management objectives, detailing types of natural communities, recreational usage, usage of natural resources, timber harvesting schedule, wildlife inventory and recommendations. Mr. Moreno plans to be completed with the plan by May or June of 2008. Mrs. O'Brien stated that members of the Open Space Committee should think about possible

recommendations concerning the Management Plan to give to the Conservation Commission and Mr. Moreno.

There has been no report from Sarah Callalhan (SPNHF) concerning the Glen Oakes site walk she conducted back in August. Mr. Karcz recalled one recommendation given by Ms. Callahan to re-mark trees on property boundary with brightly colored tape, as the original markers are falling off and/or missing. The committee felt that this would be a good project for the spring. Volunteers will be needed.

Owl Walk

Mrs. Sturdivant reported that she has been planning a Winter Owl Walk on Friday December 7, 2007. She reported that Mr. Terry Bronson, a Fremont resident and volunteer with the New Hampshire Audubon Society will be leading the hour long walk into Glen Oakes to hopefully hear some owl calls. She invited all committee members to join in the walk. Participants should meet at 7:30 PM at the end of Andreski Drive. Proper footwear, warm clothes, a flashlight are required, as well as signing a participation waiver.

Eagle Scout Project

Mark Prescott recently contacted the Selectmen that he has received approval for his Eagle Scout Project. Mrs. O'Brien reported that his project includes placing kiosks at the entrances to both the Glen Oakes Conservation Area and the Town Forest.

Mrs. O'Brien was also approached by a Fremont family about assisting in the mapping of trails in Glen Oakes.

Future Goals of the Open Space Committee

Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Jones asked the committee members for input concerning the future goals of the Open Space Committee. They asked if the intent of the committee should change or remain the same. Mr. Jones stated that he and Mrs. O'Brien were looking for other people from the committee to come forward and bring suggestions or ideas that they would like to take on and do.

Mr. Thomas felt that the objective of the committee should remain the same. He suggested meeting only once a quarter unless there is a project needing attention. He raised the point that many people have other commitments and committees that they are a part of. He also commended Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Jones for their leadership and carrying the committee through the Glen Oakes Project

Mr. Karcz stated that the main mission should remain the same. The Open Space Committee should continue to make recommendations to the Conservation Commission. He also felt the committee could continue to promoting stewardship of town owned lands and monitoring Glen Oakes.

Mrs. Ragonese volunteered time answering general questions about land conservation. Mrs. O'Brien asked her is she would be interested in creating a display to be available for the elections coming up in January and March. Mrs. Ragonese stated she would be willing to create a display, but she needed supplies (pamphlets, photos, maps etc.).

Mr. Karcz suggested creating an information board of what the Open Space Committee is doing to be placed on display at each election even.

There was a discussion concerning how often the Open Space Committee should meet. Most members felt that there were no pressing issues at this time and the meeting schedule could be changed from meeting monthly to four times a year. Mr. Karcz recommended that all committee members should keep the first Tuesday of the month as a possible meeting time for the Open Space Committee in case a land conservation project or property evaluation needed attention. An emergency meeting could be posted and held in between meeting times. Mrs. Ragonese felt that we should meet in February. The committee members present agreed with this suggestion and there would be further discussion and a decision about how often to meet at that time.

Mrs. Sturdivant suggested sharing the monitoring sheets via e-mail with the committee members on a monthly basis so all know what is going on in the Glen Oakes Conservation Area in between meeting times. Mrs. O'Brien commented that this information could also be used on the display board to let the community know what we find during the monitoring sessions, evidence of wildlife activity etc. There was also a discussion about making the monitoring session findings available on the Open Space Committee's web page.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Karcz.

Next months meeting will be on February 5, 2007 at 7 PM (tentatively in the Land Use Office of Town Hall).

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Ragonese and seconded by Mr. Thomas. The meeting ended at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Sturdivant